

City of San Diego
Clean Syringe Exchange Program Facilitation Committee

Minutes of the Meeting

October 15, 2002
12:00 p.m.
Civic Center Plaza
1200 Third Avenue, 9th Floor Conference Room
San Diego, CA

1. Call to Order

The first meeting of the City of San Diego Clean Syringe Exchange Program Facilitation Committee (Committee) was called to order at 12:10 p.m. by Acting Chair, Debra Fischle-Faulk.

2. Self-Introductions

Members of the Committee, staff and guests introduced themselves and the organizations they represent.

Members present were:

Bill Baber
Daniel Bess
Cynthia Burke
James Dunford
Debra Fischle-Faulk
Mike Franz
Linda Lloyd
Cesar Solis
Jim Varnadore
Leslie Wade

Staff:

Staajabu Heshimu
Jason Hooper

Guests:

Doris Crumley
Adrian Kwiatkowski
Robert Lewis

3. Welcome

Assistant City Manager P. Lamont Ewell welcomed the group saying he understood that syringe exchange programs are controversial, especially around siting in neighborhoods, and that the job of the Committee would sometimes be difficult. Nonetheless, he said, this work is vitally important and the City Manager would look to the Committee to offer recommendations which will be considered when the City Council decides to extend the program or not.

4. Election of Committee Chair

Ms. Fischle-Faulk asked what process the Committee would like to use to select a chair. It was decided that those members who are interested would indicate this to Ms. Heshimu by providing biographical information. Nominations may also be submitted if cleared by the nominee. The body would vote on the candidates. Ms. Heshimu is to send a reminder email to committee members and disseminate the biographical information to all.

5. Status Reports

- b. San Diego Police Department - Lt. Solis reported that Central Division has no issues or major concerns about the program operating downtown at this time; they are receiving weekly reports from the contractor; there was one complaint from a client who claimed he was wrongly arrested, however an investigation showed that the suspect had lied and the arrest was lawful. Lt. Solis is working with Western Division to get the North Park site up. Crime statistics are not ready yet but preliminary reports show arrests for syringe possession up a bit; there has been no SDPD analysis of this.
- c. SANDAG - Dr. Burke reported that data collection is in progress. The evaluators are studying the public health impacts of the program including crime data based on previous research studies. They are also tracking participant behavioral data. All the measures are defined and the instruments have been finalized. These will be presented to this Committee although there is no opportunity to change them now.

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- a. Family Health Centers of San Diego - Mr. Lewis distributed the latest spread sheet which he said will be created weekly for each site. The follow-up stats start once a participant has been enrolled for 3 months. He stated that people who have syringes legally have no way to dispose of them and are using the exchange program for disposal purposes; this explains why they have received so many more syringes than they have given out.

Dr. Burke and Mr. Lewis responded to a number of questions from members of the Committee and guests.

6. Setting of Next Meeting/Future Meetings

It was decided the Committee would meet monthly on the first Thursday of each month from noon – 1:00 p.m. These are to be “brown bags” with the City providing drinks and dessert courtesy of the Community and Economic Development Department/Community Services.

7. Non-agenda Comment/Roundtable

Committee members agreed that it would be helpful to have designated alternates. Names and contact information are to be sent to Ms. Heshimu.

Ms. Wade asked that we put an item on a future agenda to discuss methods to objectively assess the program’s impact on neighborhoods.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

DEBRA FISCHLE-FAULK, Acting Chair

STAAJABU HESHIMU, Acting Secretary

